

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, the specification has been amended to comply with Rule 77.

In addition, claims 1-19 have been amended to avoid improper multiple dependency, the Examiner's rejections of some of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to place the claims in more traditional U.S. format.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the metathesis reaction between the methane and the at least one other alkane "causes cleavage and recombination reactions of the methane and the at least one other starting alkane (A)." Support for this can be found on page 3, lines 28-31 of the specification.

Claim 13 has been amended to delete the "preferably" clause and claim 21 added to cover the subject matter deleted.

Finally, use claim 20 has been cancelled.

It is believed claims 1-19 and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 29, 2003

By: 

Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338